

**Evergreen Fire District
Board of Trustees
Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting of November 7th, 2022 – 6:00 pm**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Board Chairman Fallon calls the meeting to order at 6:21 pm
December meeting will be changed from December 5th to December 12th

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Fallon, Connolly, Brockman, Fontaine and Gipe

PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Williams

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT: *At this time, public may comment on any public matter that is not on the Agenda of the Meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the District.*

NONE

FINANCIALS:

Discuss and approve September 2022 Financials – Action

Fallon states 2 new items that will be coming from CIP fund are the new engine and new ambulance. Those will be financed through the Inter Cap Loan Program. Fallon reminds trustees that an estate check was approved the prior month to go into 4212 department account. He acknowledges inter facility revenue is down by \$114,000 and states it is the only anomaly he saw in the September financials. Fallon asks Chief Williams to get a report from Pintler that specifically shows West Valley transports. Chief Williams states he has already requested the report.

Motion; Fontaine to approve the checks, credit card payments, and accept the financial statements as present; second by Brockman; passes unanimously.

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. **Approve meeting minutes of October 3rd, 2022 – Action**

Motion; Brockman to approve the meeting minutes of October 3rd, 2022 as presented; second by Fontaine; unanimously passes.

2. **Health Benefits Discussion Update – (Connolly) (tabled for next meeting)**

Connolly states there are currently 4 employees in the Trustmark high deductible plan with approximate cost will be \$542 per month next year with one employee in the PPO with approximate costs of \$1005. Total cost \$35,905 with the department paying \$565 per person (x6) and employee on PPO will be paying \$440 extra. Employee on high deductible plan with a family will be paying \$205 monthly. Estimated costs of \$40,740 of which department pays \$33,900 with possible refund based on claims which is about \$7500. This would reduce the District's cost to approximately \$29,586. Connolly states Montana Health Co-op provided an additional plan and will not have a PPO plan. It is a 'silver' or new ACA plan and has to be had

by all participants. It would cost the 2 family participants \$928 each with the 'silver plan' for the other 3 employees with no family is \$445 for a total cost of \$31,091 with department paying \$24,065 and the 2 employees with families are responsible for \$363. There is no potential for refund going to the District. Estimated cost is \$38,292 of which the District is responsible for \$29,580. The advantage of the Trustmark Plan is for the PPO person who gets a lower deductible (\$1000 vs. \$4000). The Montana Health Co-op has a lower cost; \$35 office visits without a deductible. The MT Health Plan is approximately \$100 lower than the Trustmark plan (with the refund). Connolly states there is not a lot of difference in costs to the District or to the participants. The refund is basically padded by 35% of the \$545 per employee with 65% being 'hard cost' and not going to change. Chief Williams asks if it is industry standard to have a minimum number of participants in any plan and Connolly confirms he is correct. In that instance, employees would have to turn to the open market where costs will be much greater; as much as 50% more in premium. Trustees agree to leave the health benefits and HRA programs 'as is' for the time being but to continue to research other carriers. *(Trustees briefly adjourn)*

(Trustees re-adjourn @ 7:14 pm)

3. Benevolent Fund Cap Discussion/Policy *(carry over by Chief Williams)-Action*

Chief Williams states it is a 3 page application with verbiage needing to be included to the 1st page stating that any donations should go into 4212 once the benevolent account has reached \$15,000. 4212 is funded primarily with wild land revenue and pays for all meals and entertainment; all business and board meals, Christmas party and etc.). The current policy states any donation over \$99 goes into the Benevolent Fund and anything less than that goes into 4212. Chief Williams states there was wording that Fallon used at the last meeting that need to be included to the 1st page. Fallon states the policy should reflect some flexibility with procedures being consistent with policy. *(tabled for next meeting)*

4. Inter-cap Loan/New Ambulance Discussion Update

Fallon states the financial information that Local Government Services requires is the same information that Inter-Cap requires. Fallon asks if an ambulance has been purchased and Chief Williams states that the ambulance and the power load can be purchased for \$245,000 previously authorized by the Board. He states he was also assuming he could get a second power cot but the price of power cots have doubled within the past 8 months so \$245,000 will not cover the entire cost. The new ambulance is scheduled to arrive the 1st week of January. Payment is not required until the dealer provides the District with a VIN number of the ambulance. They will expect a down payment (generally 10% which will come from 7250) as soon as Chief Williams receives the email that includes the VIN. Chief Williams asks if Trustees are expecting both the new engine and new ambulance to be financed through Inter Cap and Fallon confirms. Fallon and Fontaine have been in discussion with LGS and committed to getting the financial information for both the over - due AFR and but the new one. Both AFR's will be replaced once the audit has been completed. Fontaine states she is intent on getting a blueprint of what the 1st number of their accounting numbers are and see if they are compatible with QB and if it's critical to have more than 7 digit accounting numbers for the chart of accounts to come into compliance with auditors as well as the State. Another option is to upgrade to QB Enterprise (\$4000 per year) and have 12 digits for chart of accounts. *(tabled for next meeting)*

5. Chief Williams Evaluation/Raise –Action *(tabled for next meeting)*

a) Chief Williams self-evaluation

Brockman and Fallon will meet and summarize evaluations submitted by all Trustees.

Chief Williams suggests Trustees have a conversation regarding a more formal process.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Williams reports the following;
- Wildland Revenue collected - \$31,216.00
- MSF Dividend received - \$ 6,043.66
- Effective January 1st 2023 Medicare will have an 8.7% increase across the board for ambulance related services including mileage (currently waiting to hear in regard to Medicaid).
- City of Kalispell has requested a Chiefs meeting and is scheduled for next Tuesday with 4 departments; Evergreen, West Valley, Smith Valley and City of Kalispell to start discussions on closest available resource dispatching for EMS. Areas close to Station 62 is not part of the Evergreen District but their Chief has asked Evergreen to respond. In the interim, Chief Williams has asked that in return, they sign off the entire Bluff, Village Greens and all the new Railway Park area that has been annexed from Evergreen to allow us to continue to respond EMS. The District is not getting any tax revenue back that was annexed but from a response standpoint it makes sense because it takes them 7 to 8 minutes longer to arrive to calls.
- Logan Health is making in-roads into the City. They have an agreement that takes them more south. They are also responding to MVA's on both Hwy 93 and as far down as Meridian Road. They are closer to those areas than Evergreen.
- Program through DNRC where military type equipment from overseas is given away and is not accessible to the public. Chief Williams is looking for a UTV for the wildland fires with the only cost being picking up the equipment in Missoula. The rental rate the DNRC pays for the UTV is more than the pay rate for his pick-up. He is also looking at obtaining one of the cargo containers for free to be used as a storage unit for department/EMS records.

1. September 2022 Call Volume

- a) 2019/2022 Comparison Incident Count by Weekday/Hour (all zones) for September
- b) 2019/2022 Comparison Incident Statistics for September

Chief Williams states he has always included the IFT's in the EMS numbers which may seem inflated and going forward he will report the actual EMS /911 calls. These numbers will not match the number on the reports in the packet but will show a true call volume.

September 2022 EMS call volume; 119 vs. 133 in 2019. Fire Calls 2022; 43 vs. 31 in 2019. IFT's for Sept 2022: 76 vs. 128 in Sept 2019.

Year to date report; January through September 2022; 1059 ems calls vs. 1003 EMS calls

Fire calls 2022; 336 vs. 268 in 2019. IFT's 2022; 855 vs. 1011 in 2019.

The District has increased in by 60 calls for EMS/911 volume but trending down in IFTs (about 200 less) and 150 more calls for fire.

Adjourned 8:04 pm

The President of the Board of Trustees, as presiding officer of any meeting of the Board of Trustees, may close the meeting during the time the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy; and, then, if, and only if, the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. The right of individual privacy may be waived by the individual about whom the discussion pertains; and, in that event, the meeting must be open.


Chairman Fallon or Vice Chair Connolly


Secretary Brockman